

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, PINT, SCUL, SEDU, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: VISIT OF FATHER HEALY, PRESIDENT OF GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0595

1. SUMMARY: FATHER TIMOTHY HEALY, PRESIDENT OF GOERGETOWN UNIVERSITY, ACCOMPANIED BY FATHER ROBERT MITCHELL, ALSO OF GEORGETOWN, ON 14 FEBRUARY 1978 SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR JOSE SIMEON CANAS (UCA) FOR INTER-UNIVERSITY COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE. ON THE SAME DAY, FATHER HEALY, ON BEHALF OF GEORGETOWN, BESTOWED THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS, HONORIS CAUSA, UPON ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO OF SAN SALVADOR, BEFORE A MASSIVE AUDIENCE IN THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AGREEMENT WITH UCA WAS SIGNED AT THE UNIVERSITY IN THE PRESENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNIVERSITY, THE

US AMBASSADOR AND MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. IT PROVIDES DOR (1) INTERCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS, DOCUMENTS, AND REPORTS IN AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST, ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATED TO PROBLEMS OF THE "THIRD WORLD"; (2) INTERCHANGE OF PROFESSORS TO TEACH OR DO RESEARCH, ALSO EMPHASIZING PROBLEMS OF THE "THIRD WORLD",
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ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELDS OF ERONOMICS, POLITICAL SCIENCE, HISTORY AND SOCIOLOGY; (3) INTERCHANGE OF STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE CARRYING OUT THESIS RESEARCH; (4) ASSISTANCE OF THE LART OF GEORGETOWN IN OBTAINING FUNDS FOR POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UCA STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. FATHER HEALY ANNOUNCED THE OPENING OF A CHAIR AT GEORGETOWN FOR A VISIT-ING PROFESSOR FROM UCA DURING THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.

FUNDS FROM A RECENTLY APPROVED NINE MILLION DOLLAR LOAN FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HELD ON THIS EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

3. THE PRESENTATION OF THE HONORARY DOCTOR'S DEGREE WAS MADE BEFORE PROBABLY 5000 PEOPLE PACKED IN THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL AND THE STREET AND PARK IN FRONT. REPRESENTATIVES OF UCA AND THE US EMBASSY WERE PRESENT IN ADDITION TO MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH HIERARCHY. THE CEREMONY STARTED WITH THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. FATHER HEALY IN HIS SHORT PRESENTATION (MADE IN SPANISH) EMPHASIZED THE PERSONAL VIRTUES OF ARCHBISHOP ROMERO, HIS AVERSION TO VIOLENCE AS A MEANS FOR SOLVING HUMAN PROBLEMS, HIS VOICE AS A CRY IN THE DESERT, AND HIS EFFORTS SIMPLY TO CARRY OUT THE MANDATE OF VATICAN TWO CALLING FOR A MINIMUM OF JUSTICE FOR ALL MANKIND. ARCHBISHOP ROMERO, IN A PREPARED "PRAYER FOR PEACE", FAR LESS CONTENTIOUS THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, EMPHASIZED THAT THE HONOR BESTOWED ON HIM SIGNIFIED,

ABOVE ALL, A SOLID SUPPORT FOR THE "NOBLE CAUSE OF CHRISTIAN HUMANISM", ESPECIALLY THE "NEW HUMANISM" OF THE CHURCH. HE REFERRED ALSO TO VATICAN TWO AND TO MEDELLIN. HE ACCEPTED THE HONOR, ON BEHALF OF HIS ENTIRE CHURCH AND HIS IN-NUMBERABLE COLLABORATORS, AND ALSO AS A GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE "WHO SUFFER HERE, IN SUCH DIVERSE AND HUMILIATING MANNER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE VIOLATIONS OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS." HE SPOKE ALSO OF THE CHURCH'S PLUINATIVE CRY OF DENUNCIATION AND REPUDIATION AGAINST "AN ACUTAL CULT OF VIOLENCE", WHICH "ATTACKS AND MAKES A SACRIFICE OF GOD'S IMAGE." HE CLOSED MENTIONING THE "ECHO OF FRATERNAL LOVE" INSPIRING THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH WHICH OFFERED THE "INGREDIENTS FOR THE NECESSARY DIALOGUE OF THE AUTHORITIES WITH CAPITAL AND LABOR TO OVERSEE AND PREVENT

REPRESSION, BLOODY VIOLENCE AND SOCIAL ILLNESS AND TO CONSTRUCT A SOLID PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE AND LOVE." HIS PRESENTATION WAS INTERRUPTED NUMEROUS TIMES BY ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE OF THE AUDIENCE.

4. A RECEPTION OFFERED BY DCM LUBENSKY (ALSO ALUMNUS OF GEORGETOWN) FOR FATHER HEALY AND EX-STUDENTS OF GEORGETOWN, INCLUDING THE SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE. THE ARCHBISHOP ATTENDED WITH A NUMBER OF CHURCH HIERARCHY. INVITED BISHOPS FROM OUTLYING AREAS ALL REGRETTED. THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION ALSO FAILED TO SHOW, AND THE ONLY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND WAS THE SUB-SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, ALSO AN EX-STUDENT OF GEORGETOWN.

5. FATHER HEALY'S

VISIT WAS UNFORTUNATELY IGNORED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND AN OPPORTUNITY WAS LOST FOR WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BENEFICIAL EXCHANGE. EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE ABLE TO DIALOGUE IN DEPTH WITH CHURCH OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY AT THE DINNER OFFERED BY THE ARCHBISHOP AFTER THE DEGREE PRESENTATION, AND ARGUMENTS WERE PRESENTED FOR THE CHURCH TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS TO TAKE STRONGER INITIATIVES FOR DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE INTERVENTION OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION (ESPECIALLY A JESUIT INSTITUTION) ON THE LOCAL SCENE WAS APPLAUDED WIDELY IN CHURCH AND UNIVERSITY CIRCLES BUT PROBABLY WAS RECEIVED WITH CONSIDERABLE SCEPTICISM AND POSSIBLE RESENTMENT BY THE WEALTHY ELITE AND THE GOVERNMENT.
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6. POST RELEASE ON HEALY VISIT CARRIED IN FULL IN MAJOR DAILY LA PRENSA GRAFICA AND AFTERNOON DAILY DIARIO LATINO. PICTURE AND STORY ON DETAILS GEORGETOWN-UCA AGREEMENT FOLLOWING SIGNING CEREMONY PLAYED PAGE TWO 1TH FEBRUARY, PRENSA GRAFICA ONLY.

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